

my gratitude to everyone who will participate in National Public Lands Day this year.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANTHONY P. SEIG

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Sunman, Anthony P. Seig, 19 years old, died on September 9 in Baghdad after being gravely injured when a rocket struck the roof of his barracks the day before. Tony risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Tony enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating East Central High School in St. Leon last year. He had been in Iraq for 2 months when he was killed and would have celebrated his 20th birthday in a few weeks. Tony was remembered by his aunt, Vicki Jenkins, who told a local news outlet, "He's certainly our hero. He was very proud to serve his country. He felt very strongly about serving his country."

Tony was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 118th Military Police Company, Fort Bragg, NC. This brave soldier leaves behind his mother, Linda Seig, and two sisters.

Today, I join Tony's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Tony, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Tony was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Tony will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Tony's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Tony's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Anthony P. Seig in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in

which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Tony's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Tony.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the valuable contributions and achievements of the Hispanic people of our proud country.

For the nearly 34 years I have represented my home State of New Mexico in the Senate, I have witnessed the growth and success of the Hispanic community in almost every facet of social life. New Mexico's Hispanic community has a long and rich history that dates back centuries. Today, it can claim a long ledger of accomplishments in fields as diverse as science and art, business and sport, medicine and public service.

With respect to the fields of science and military service, I am proud to call attention to the remarkable achievements of Sidney Gutierrez. Born and raised in Albuquerque, Sidney Gutierrez is a distinguished astronaut who has complied over 488 hours in space during his time with NASA. Sidney has been recognized by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in America, and he has also been a recipient of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Award. Prior to his stellar achievements at NASA, Sidney served his country in the U.S. Air Force after he graduated from the Air Force Academy. What is important to note about Sidney's record is that his isn't an aberration. Today, hundreds of Hispanics serve our Nation's high-tech fields—both in the private sector and for the Government as scientists and researchers at our national laboratories.

Today, many Hispanic people from New Mexico continue to serve their country in the armed services. They have stood up as proud Americans and volunteered to protect their families and communities during the global war on terror. We should also take this moment to remember the sacrifices Hispanics have made to preserve the liberties and freedom that make America a beacon of hope to millions around the world. Just as soldiers from New Mexico distinguished themselves in battles at Bataan, Attu, North Africa, Europe, and the Pacific, today men and women in uniform of Hispanic heritage are fighting for their Nation in Afghanistan and Iraq. Our Nation is stronger because of these men and women. They deserve the gratitude of the Nation for their sacrifices.

Hispanic Americans have also been active in other forms of public service. The first Hispanic Congressman in the House of Representatives and the first Hispanic Senator in our Nation's history were from New Mexico. Since it became a State in 1912, New Mexico has been a trailblazer in placing Hispanics into elected office.

The first Hispanic Senator in our Nation's history was a New Mexican by the name of Octaviano Larrazolo. Senator Larrazolo lived a rich life and valued public service above everything else. He was one of the early and important contributors to the constitution of the State of New Mexico and a fearless advocate for statehood. It was no surprise then that the people of New Mexico elected him to serve as their Governor. Throughout his career he was known as an advocate for better education and believed that a strong educational system was the key advancement in our fair and competitive society.

The tradition of Congress celebrating the contributions of Hispanic Americans goes back almost 40 years. In 1968, Congress started by designating a week to celebrate Hispanic heritage. Over the years, we decided to extend the designation to cover a month starting on September 15. The extra time has been a necessary and appropriate change to allow us to recognize the long record of contributions Hispanic Americans have made to our communities and to our Nation. I call on the American people to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the Nation to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IT'S TIME TO TALK DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to the efforts of Liz Claiborne, Inc., and Redbook to designate September 21, 2006, It's Time to Talk Day. What they want us and the Nation to talk about is domestic and dating violence, and they have partnered to encourage national dialog on the subject of this pervasive and terrible crime.

We are not the only ones talking about it: talk radio, government officials, domestic violence advocates, businesses, and schools across the Nation are taking time today to focus on the issue that will affect nearly one-third of all women in their lifetime and many men. Bringing the crime of domestic and dating violence to the level of a simple conversation can start a chain reaction that will save a relationship and may, very well, save a life.

Some of you may know that I am especially concerned about teen dating violence, a crime that exists in every community regardless of race, socioeconomic, rural or urban. A young Idaho woman in an abusive dating relationship died 6 years ago. Since that time, I have pushed to include

dating violence as a definition of domestic violence under Federal law. My efforts would be fruitless without the help of citizens and organizations nationwide. Liz Claiborne, Inc. is one of the organizations that has taken a leadership role in educating teens about teen dating violence through its "Love is Not Abuse" curriculum designed for 9th or 10th graders. I have been pleased to support those efforts to promote this curriculum throughout the country this past spring.

I commend the company not only on this endeavor but its newest effort to partner with the National Domestic Violence Hotline and create the first-ever National Teen Dating Violence Hotline. The hotline will be operated by the National Domestic Violence Hotline and will focus on teens and young adults up to the age of 24. Although there are national hotlines for adults, teens have special needs and require a different approach to dealing with their issues and privacy concerns.

Time to Talk Day should not be the only day to talk about how we can prevent domestic and dating violence. We must work hard to educate our children how to live in healthy relationships to prevent the cycle of violence from being repeated in the future.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On July, 29, 2006, in San Diego at an annual gay pride festival 3 gay men were assaulted. During the festival, 3 men with baseball bats began yelling anti-gay remarks and a fight broke out. Two of the victims were hit in the head with a baseball bat and a third victim was stabbed. In the past 32 years the annual gay pride festival has often been the focus of anti-gay protesters, many times leading to violence.

I believe that the government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, this year marks the 60th anniversary of Philippine-United States diplomatic relations and friendship. The partnership of our two nations is bound by several

battles dating back to World War II, and continues today with the war on terrorism. Those who continue to pay the ultimate sacrifices do so in the defense of freedom and the democratic way of life.

During World War II, Filipinos fought side by side with Americans in defense of Bataan and Corregidor, fighting a common enemy. Today, we face a different battle—the war on terrorism—a battle being fought and won in the Philippines. At this moment in many parts of the world, little children, innocent children are crying in pain. Many of these children are being killed from mines and explosives mainly because older men do not know how to discuss peace. They know only how to discuss war, hatred, and death.

A month ago, together with the senior officers of the Republic of Philippines Armed Forces, I flew to Zamboanga on the Island of Mindanao. The main element of the mission was to inspect the joint Philippine and United States Armed Forces, and to receive a report on their activities. However, the event that impressed me most was the simple ceremony celebrating the presentation of 185 electrification projects to governors, chieftains, and leaders of various villages and towns in the many islands of Mindanao.

These island villages and towns never had electricity. Children had to study by candlelight. For the first time, these communities have electricity in their homes. Children can spend more time learning. Parents can use sewing machines and other power tools to make products to bring to market. And, communities can use computers to surf the Web and connect to the world.

The ceremony began with Asalamalaykum, and a prayer thanking Allah, recited by the Imam of Zamboanga. He was followed by a Christian minister, who read scripture from the Bible. Thereafter, children performed their traditional Muslim dance, welcoming us with such warmth, joy, and tranquility. While Christians and Muslims in other parts of the world are killing each other, to see the scene in Zamboanga, where Muslims and Christians are sitting together, breaking bread together, was a deep inspiration. It demonstrates to me that under proper leadership, miracles can happen, and miracles do happen.

In Mindanao, there is a demonstration of hope. The joint military forces of our two nations have demonstrated that while you need an iron fist to combat terrorism, you also need to extend a hand of friendship to win their hearts and minds. When you work together, when you cooperate, when you consult, when you speak of peace and hope, miracles can happen. If the rest of the world did the same thing, children would not be screaming in pain.

Of all the aid that we provide the Republic of the Philippines, 60 percent is being spent in Mindanao to reinforce efforts to secure a lasting peace, and to

build a better life for the people of Mindanao. More than 22,000 former Moro National Liberation Front combatants are now small-scale commercial farmers, earning incomes through farming corn, rice, and seaweed. An additional 6,500 former combatants have been trained to produce high-value crops, such as finfish and bananas. In partnership with the private sector, 6,500 households in 227 remote communities are now equipped with solar-powered, renewable energy systems.

The ties that bind our two nations are based on the foundations of freedom and democracy. The work conducted today along with the economic opportunities and education provided by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and in conjunction with the United States Government continues to pave the way toward a better quality of life and stability for the children and region of Mindanao.

Mr. President, I commend to my colleagues the text of an August 2006 paper entitled "Securing Peace in Mindanao through Diplomacy, Development, and Defense," written by the American Embassy in Manila.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent on Senate business yesterday when the Senate voted on the nomination of Francisco Augusto Besosa to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Puerto Rico. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of Mr. Besosa's nomination.

FOREIGN CORRUPTION AND OIL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last month, on August 10, President Bush announced a new U.S. initiative to combat corruption around the world. He named it a "National Strategy to Internationalize Efforts Against Kleptocracy." In introducing this initiative, President Bush said:

High-level corruption by senior government officials, or kleptocracy, is a grave and corrosive abuse of power and represents the most invidious type of public corruption. It threatens our national interest and violates our values. It impedes our efforts to promote freedom and democracy, end poverty, and combat international crime and terrorism.

I couldn't agree more.

But lately, some of the President's actions are at odds with his rhetoric. The first principle of the President's initiative against corruption is to deny entry into the United States to kleptocrats, meaning high-level officials engaged in or benefitting from corruption. Yet in recent months the administration has welcomed two of the world's most notorious kleptocrats: Teodoro Obiang, the President of Equatorial Guinea, and Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of Kazakhstan.

What do these two men have in common besides corrupt dictatorships? Oil. Both control their nations' vast oil resources. Both supply oil to the United States. By welcoming these corrupt